

HENB Professional Development Day
Hosted by Fundy Home Educators
Agenda - November 29, 2019

9:00 Registration and Breakfast Yogurt Bar

9:30 Welcome

9:45 Attend Session 1A or 1B

- **Session 1A - *Managing Middle School* - Moira Law**

Middle school years are often thought of as the worst by many parents, teachers and graduates of the public-school system. They are in fact a beautiful time as our children move from childhood into adolescence, from complete dependence to interdependence and a time for the emerging self to be known and loved. In this talk we will consider concrete strategies to optimize the education of your middle school child.

Moira Law homeschooled her 8 children for 19 years before taking a break this year to teach full time in the Psychology Department of the University of New Brunswick, Saint John. All of her hope now rests in Christ; without Him we can do nothing. It has taken her awhile to figure this out.

OR

- **Session 1B - *Mental Health from a Christian Perspective* - Andrea Stoodley**

Staying healthy mentally is so important to maintaining balance amidst the business of our homeschool days. Andrea will be discussing mental health from a Christian perspective and will be providing information for both the parent and child.

Andrea Stoodley is a Marriage and Family Counsellor working out of Quispamsis and Moncton. She started a private practice out of Kings Church five years ago and has since started working for Touchstone Counselling as well. She is passionate about assisting individuals, couples and families to find hope and freedom in their lives and relationships. Andrea has been married to Justin for fifteen years and they have three beautiful and busy children, Kinsley, Wyatt and Emmie.

10:30 Break, Book Swap & Yummy Eats

Book Swap - Anyone is welcome to take books from this table. This is a great chance to bless others with your gently used curriculum and hopefully take something great home for your shelves.

10:45 Devotion - *Grace, Not Perfection* - Andrea Allaby

Andrea Allaby lives with her family in Apohaqui, N.B. After growing up as an east-ender in Saint John, she met and married her husband, Stephen, and then moved away to become a teacher. She didn't realize it at the time but God had plans for her to use her passion for educating, to teach her own children. God blessed them with five girls, two boys and later, an 'adopted' teenage son. Their lives as a family have been especially woven together by doing school at home. It has been a journey for which she is forever grateful- the theme of which continues to be 'God's mercy and faithfulness on sinful people!' He is constantly teaching them and rescuing them with His beautiful grace. Psalm 103:2-6 "Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits- who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like eagles."

11:15 Activities

- Creating your own Christmas decoration
- Essential oil roller bottles
- Christmas card making

12:00 Lunch

- Appetizer - Autumn Apple Salad with maple vinaigrette
- Entree - Chili Bar with all the trimmings and fresh baked Corn Bread OR Roasted Butternut Squash & Bacon Soup with Butter Biscuits
- Dessert

1:00 Attend Session 2A or 2B

- ***Session 2A - If Only We Knew Then What We Know Now: Advice We Wish We Had Taken*** - Jillian Ramsay & Heather Milbury

Two homeschool moms speak candidly 10 years later about the advice they tossed aside and the lessons they have learned through the years.

Jillian Ramsay is in her 9th year of homeschooling and has served on *Fundy Home Educators'* (FHE) Executive in Saint John since the beginning. Prior to this, Jillian worked a government job with a Master's degree in Criminal Behaviour Psychology, counselling and assessing offenders. Over the years, God has changed her from a high-achieving, self-deceived perfectionist to someone who seeks to relinquish control to Christ, embrace the gift of flexibility and acknowledge the immeasurable need for His grace each day. She also understands the importance of community and gives thanks regularly for the wonderful friends, moms and teachers around her.

Heather Milbury is a homeschooling mom to five great kids who range in age from 7 to 15. This is her eleventh year homeschooling. In her former life, she taught at NBCC for several years and later worked in corporate training as a technical trainer and manager. None of this prepared her for the soul searching task of raising and educating her children at home. But God, in His grace, has provided help and encouragement to continue this work. She is committed to building community and is blessed with the fellowship of wonderful friends, sisters, and homeschool colleagues through *Fundy Home Educators*.

OR

- **Session 2B - *Staying the Course Long Term* - Holly Myers**

Are you in this for the long haul? Is your home education experience just for a season or is it something your family is trying out? You might be struggling with fears of preventing post secondary education, missing out on social opportunities or failing to teach them everything they need to know for life. Well...join the club. Every one of us has had these fears because we want the best for our children, and often lack confidence to provide them with it.

Understanding what educational "success" means and learning to follow God's lead on practical issues are keys to confident and long term home education. Anything else will just be school. Separating academic education from daily home life can muddy the waters of true learning and sending your child "to school" too soon can be devastating spiritually or simply a waste of time.

Come hear from the other side of the classroom from Holly who can now look back at her path and see God's plan working out. This insight will encourage and give the confidence you might need to keep moving forward in this treasure we have called home education.

Holly Myers grew up in the Saint John River Valley and went to school in Moncton, NB and then Wolfville NS for 6 years. She received her teaching degree, which ironically, led her to home education. Helping her husband Guy (from Ontario) minister in Browns Flat, NB for the past 24 years, home educating their 4 children, learning to create a God honoring home and pouring her passion into prayer and onto canvas have been her work and pleasure. With her two oldest children married and working, and the second two nearing high school graduation...all trusting Jesus (Yay!!!), Holly has been wading into the waters of sharing her life lessons with women of mutual educational passion and commitment to the Word of God.

1:45 Coffee Bar & Yummy Eats

2:00 Attend Session 3A or 3B

- **Session 3A - *Finding the Healthy Balance* - Andrea Gunter**

Maintaining a healthy balance in our lives while juggling all we need to do can be a difficult task at times. But there are things that we can do to calm the chaos, reduce the stress and enjoy a peaceful home and school. We'll unpack simple but effective organizing strategies that will help you set priorities and goals, use your time efficiently, manage your home with the help of your kids, and slow down enough to experience God's very best for your family.

Andrea and her husband, Derrick, are in their 19th and final year of home educating. With three children in university and one in Grade 12, this long and rewarding chapter will soon draw to a close. Working full time as the VP for Enrolment and Marketing at Kingswood University, Andrea has discovered anew the challenge and reward of maintaining balance in the home...and that the lessons never end as the seasons change.

OR

- **Session 3B - *Seeing Beyond the Curriculum* - Tammy Bigney**

Who doesn't want to instill a love for life, learning and most importantly the love for God into the hearts of their children? The past 7 years at the Bigney homeschool have been filled with good intentions and loads of curriculum! With guidance from the Holy Spirit and some bumps along the way, Tammy has learned the importance of looking up and seeing past the curriculum and adding more "life" to their days. She has an eclectic style homeschool and likes to pull from different curriculums and approaches. Tammy will share her thoughts on how to incorporate more "life" into your day and ideas on how to alleviate the fear of not doing enough.

Tammy Bigney is mom and teacher to three sweet girls ages 9, 12 and 14. She has been married to Glen Robert for almost 19 years and has had the awesome opportunity to travel often with him and the girls over the years. This has created so many unique learning experiences for them as a family and as individual learners. Prior to her life as a homeschooling Mom, Tammy worked as a registered nurse and received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Prince Edward Island in 1998. As a child, she dreamed of becoming a nurse or a teacher, little did she know that someday she would be able to do both!

2:45 Closing Remarks & Prayer